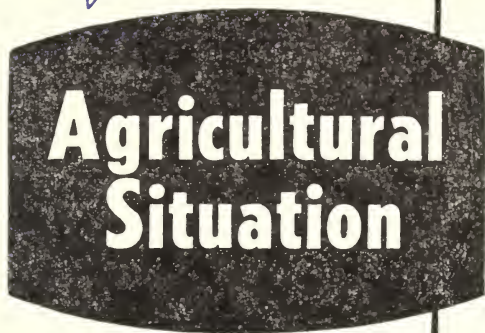


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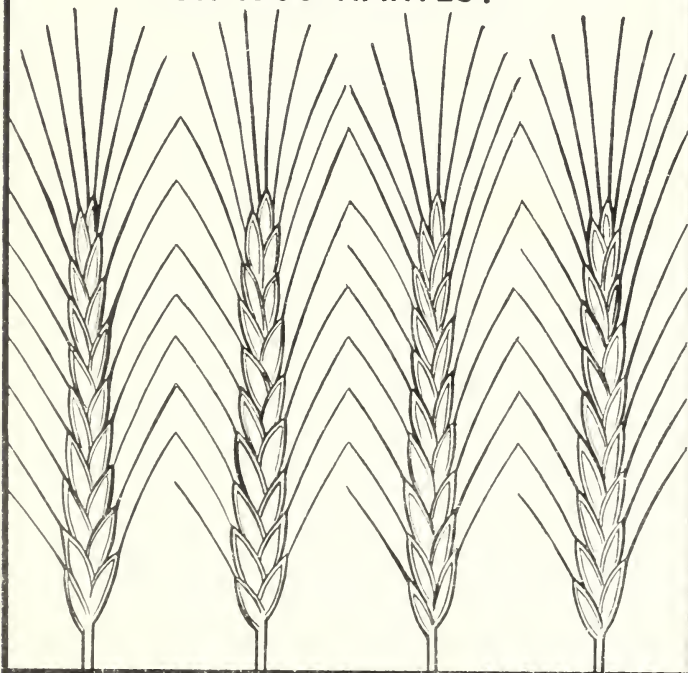
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## WINTER WHEAT:

PRODUCERS TRIMMED  
THEIR ACREAGE  
FOR 1968 HARVEST



# As SRS Takes Stock of Wheat . . .

Last year was a big one for wheat.

The 1.2-billion-bushel winter wheat harvest, and the 1.5-billion total—each was a recordbreaker. Spring wheat production was 312 million bushels, the largest since 1951.

What will this year bring? With the winter wheat harvest still several months hence and the spring wheat crop even further into the year, it is too early to predict the total crop. But earliest indications for the winter wheat crop—which will make up the bulk of the total—point to slight changes from last year's level.

The story comes from a December 1 survey of crop reporters by the Statistical Reporting Service.

## THEY PLANTED LESS

The report showed that producers planted less winter wheat than in the fall of 1966. Farmers seeded 49.7 million acres to winter wheat—a decrease of 8 percent from the previous crop.

(This decrease in acreage reflects a 13-percent smaller national acreage allotment for all wheat. Because of large supplies from the 1967 crop, the new allotment was set at 59.3 million acres, compared with 68.2 million a year earlier.)

The SRS report also told of good crop conditions which, if followed by at least average growing conditions until harvest, could largely offset the effects of the reduction in acreage seeded.

## WHEAT'S GROWING WELL

As of December 1, wheat fields were in fair to good condition in all regions, with no exceptionally good or poor areas reported.

This was something of a change from previous months. Earlier in the fall, seeding got off to a slow start in the Great Plains, Pacific Northwest, and South because of dryness. Meanwhile, a wet fall took its toll in the Corn Belt and Northeast by delaying seeding and reducing planted acreage.

By December, however, needed moisture had come to the dry areas, and the crop entered 1968 in good shape.

This makes above-average yields a distinct possibility, according to SRS, assuming that average weather condi-

tions prevail. An overall yield per seeded acre of 24.2 bushels is indicated, more favorable than last year's 22.3, or the 1962-66 average of 22.7.

## YIELDS MAY BE OFFSETTING

From these indications of acres planted and yield per acre, the winter wheat crop is estimated at 1,204 million bushels, or 1 percent less than the crop of 1967.

Unusual weather later on would change this picture. And in the past 10 years, the December indications of the winter wheat crop have varied from final results by from 3 million to 267 million bushels.

If the winter wheat crop totals about 1.2 billion bushels as currently indicated, the size of the spring wheat crop will determine any changes from last year's all-wheat volume of 1.5 billion bushels.

Wilbert Walther  
*Statistical Reporting Service*

## Potato Growers Aided

On January 8, USDA announced a program to assist the marketing of the 1967 fall potato crop.

Methods of assistance include:

—A producer-payment program to encourage the diversion of potato stocks to starch, flour, and feed.

—A limited purchase program, under which potatoes can be bought and distributed to schools and other eligible outlets.

Purchases will be determined by the quantities which these outlets can use without waste. Potatoes will not be used outside the State of purchase.

Grower prices for the fall crop have been at low levels in recent months. Production of fall potatoes was a record 232.1 million hundredweight, 2 percent above 1966. And through January 1, disappearance of the 1967 fall crop was well below the 100.4 million hundredweight of a year earlier. Also, storage stocks of fall potatoes held by growers and dealers totaled a record high 141 million hundredweight.

# ... Western Livestock Pasture It

In western Kansas, western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle, grazing wheatfields in winter adds fresh feed to the livestock ration and extra dollars to the income of wheatgrowers.

Although wheat and livestock are also produced in many other western areas, this one has two features essential for winter grazing: The weather is usually mild enough to allow grazing, and the wheatfields add up to enough acreage to make orderly grazing possible on a commercial scale.

Moisture and mild days after fall seeding encourage top growth needed for grazing and help the progress of any volunteer wheat. Many producers let their fields lie fallow every other year to store up soil moisture. The fields will grow the volunteer wheat from grains left by the combine.

Moisture enough to build good root systems and prevent soil from drying away from the roots—this also is needed for a satisfactory wheat grazing. Livestock can thus graze the top growth without uprooting the plants.

Even then, weather's role has not ended, since livestock can't graze when fields are too soggy or covered with ice and snow.

With the right weather, wheat pasturing can go on right up until time for the plants to begin their spring growth for their primary task of producing grain.

With so much riding on weather conditions, wheat grazing has been limited in some years. Last year, for example, wheat grazing was curtailed in many districts.

This year, fields in the wheat pasture region have been in better shape. On December 15, according to correspondents of the Statistical Reporting Service, about 2 acres less than last season are required to winter a 400-pound calf.

Even with the general improvement from the winter of 1966-67, wheat top growth reported on December 15 was not strong enough for grazing in several areas of the tristate region. Here's a roundup of conditions:

—Western Kansas—Mid-December pasture feed supplies were rated fair to poor. There was an extensive poor area for wheat pasture in central and

western portions. Many reporters told of dryness which limited top growth.

In north-central and south-central Kansas, conditions were more favorable, although some fields with roots too weak for grazing were reported. However, 9 percent of fall-seeded wheat under grazing in all districts represented a threefold increase over the 1966 situation.

—Western Oklahoma—Development of wheat for pasture was uniformly fair to good. Pastured fields accounted for 45 percent of fall-seeded acreage, up almost three times from the previous December.

Central and north-central Oklahoma reported the most favorable conditions, while top growth was relatively poor in the panhandle and southwest.

Prospects for grazing later in the winter were weakened by continued dry weather during December.

—Texas—Conditions were best for wheat grazing in the southern low rolling plains. Wheat pasture in the northern plains was limited by dry, cold weather. Stock was being grazed on 43 percent of the Texas wheat pasture, compared with 34 percent a year earlier.

Between last December and mid-January 1968, severe weather hit the region, in the form of snow, ice, and subnormal cold. However, wheat pastures continued to support some grazing activities.

*Statistical Reporting Service*

## HOUSING HEADACHE

Some farmers who traditionally provide housing for their workers might be better off if they didn't.

In terms of costs and employer-employee relations, the house that's meant to be a fringe benefit often turns into a boomerang.

This is likely to happen when worker housing is close to a farm job. The farmer then may find himself on call as a landlord as well as an employer.

A break with tradition may bring a better deal for both the hired and the hirer. It might pay to add the value of the housing to your farmworker's pay, and rent the house to a nonfarm family.



# THE RURAL AMERICANS: 1 Citizen in 4

## AT HOME IN THE COUNTRY

Being rural is a matter of residence, according to Census Bureau definitions. On farms, in open country, or in towns smaller than 2,500 is where you'll find rural Americans.

Today, a minority of the rural millions live on farms. In 1950, almost two rural people in five were farmdwellers, while today there are one in five, residing on about 3 million farmsteads.

## 54 MILLION ARE RURAL

On and off the farms, rural people now number about 54 million. This is about the same as in 1960, and also is the total projected for 1970.

The total has not changed because the net loss from people moving to, or becoming part of, nonrural areas likely is offsetting the natural expansion of rural families. The 54 million rural Americans of 1960 would advance to 64 million by 1970 if there were no outmigration. The projected migration of 10 million people, however, would cancel the growth. (This projection is a net number which deducts for persons who will enter rural status during the decade. It is based on migration rates of the 1950's.)

## WIDE OPEN LAND

"Wide open spaces" aptly describes the surroundings of rural people. The population density of rural Americans in 1960 was 15 persons per square mile, compared with 3,113 people per square mile of urban land.

The dispersion of noncity people was more dramatic in these terms: The rural 30 percent of the U.S. population was distributed over 99 percent of the land areas. Only 1 percent of the land housed the rest, or 125 million people.

Rural population trends differ somewhat from those for the total population. Differences have been noted in the ratio of men to women, young to old, and in the average marrying age and family size.

## MORE MEN

More men than women lived on farms in 1966, according to a Census Bureau survey. Boys and men were 51 percent of the farm population, although total males accounted for less than half of the U.S. population.

On farms, more males than females were in the under-24 and over-45 age groups. At the national level, the balance favored women among all those 20 years or older.



# A CHANGING PROFILE

## Has a Rural Home

Rural people have relatively more members in the youngest and oldest age groups in comparison with the rest of the population. The 1966 census survey indicates:

- For the U.S. population, 40 people in 100 are 19 or younger, with the other 60 divided equally among the 20-44 and the 45-and-up groups.
- For each 100 persons living outside metropolitan areas, 41 are 19 or younger, and 31 are 54 or over, leaving 28 in the central ages 20-44.
- Out of 100 farmpeople in 1966 there were 42 in the low age bracket, 35 in the high one. Thus, only 23 were between the ages of 20 and 44.

**YOUNGER,  
OLDER**

Wedding bells have been ringing sooner. Sooner for all Americans, and sooner for rural than urban young people.

Since the early 1940's, the average age when rural men first marry has declined by 1 year, to 24.1. It remains about 1 year younger than the average for urban men.

These differences also apply to women. Rural women are wed at the average age of 20.7, about a year younger than they married in the early 1940's. They also marry a year and 5 months younger than average urban women.

**YOUNGER  
MARRIAGE**

Nationally, the share of families with two or more minor children has increased by 8 percent since 1950. On farms, however, there has been no increase in the proportion of families with two or more minor children; in fact, the largest increase has been in the share of couples with no minor children.

For the Nation as a whole, the share of families with either one or no minor children, while remaining substantial, got smaller between 1950 and 1966. Meanwhile, families with two or more minor children increased their share.

Different changes have occurred among farm families. Couples with no children under 18 are becoming more common. In 1966, for example, 49 percent of all farm families contained no one under 18, a 5-percent larger share of the total than in 1950.

The percentage of farm families with minor children has decreased. While families with four or more children have increased slightly, the share of families with one, two, or three minor children has declined.

**SMALLER FARM  
FAMILIES**



# Hog Output: Little Change From Last Year

Hog farmers last year sent about 11 percent more hogs to slaughter than in 1966. And hog prices dropped sharply.

This year, only a little larger slaughter is expected. And any price decline will likely be much smaller than last year.

The small changes in prospect for slaughter and prices are what you might expect from a profit situation which, while being less favorable than in late 1965 and in 1966, is still better than average. The hog-corn price ratio, a general measure of the profitability of raising hogs, averaged 16.3 in 1967. This compares with 18.5 in 1966 and 15.3 during 1961-65.

## INCREASED SLAUGHTER

Hog slaughter in the first half of 1968 will reflect the 2-percent larger 1967 pig crop last fall, since pigs usually go to market about 6 to 7 months after being farrowed. On December 1, there were about 1 percent more hogs being raised for slaughter than a year earlier. Hogs in the weight groups that would reach slaughter weights this winter numbered about the same as a year earlier. But there were 3 percent more hogs in weight groups that would be ready for market this spring.

Even a small gain in hog slaughter supplies, coupled with stepped-up fed-cattle marketings in the first half of 1968, will likely make hog prices through midyear average below 1966 levels. Barrows and gilts averaged about \$17.85 per 100 pounds at eight markets during January, about \$1.60 less than a year earlier.

## WHAT NEXT?

Hog prices in the second half of 1968 will depend largely on the size of this spring's pig crop. Farrowings before midyear will supply the bulk of slaughter hogs during July-December. Last December, farmers reported plans to have slightly fewer sows farrow during December 1967-May 1968 than in these months a year earlier.

If these plans are carried out, the spring pig crop will be slightly smaller than a year ago and about the same as the 1961-65 average.

Why, despite an above-average hog-corn price ratio, are producers planning

to raise no more hogs than last spring? During the second half of 1967 the hog-corn price ratio was 17.3. Only twice since 1947—in 1958 and 1965—has it been higher for that period of time. The 1967 feed grain crop was record large. Since poultry production in the first half of 1968 is likely to total about the same as a year earlier, much of the increase in feed grains will be available for pork production. But hog prices in the first half of the year will be somewhat lower than last year. And of course, production costs have continued to increase.

If December 1967-May 1968 pig crops total about the same as last year, hog slaughter in the second half of 1968 will also be much the same as in the second half of 1967. In this event, hog prices likely will decline only seasonally and average around prices of the past year. However, if producers decide to step up farrowings, feed to heavy weights, or both, the price picture for summer and fall could darken considerably.

Donald Seaborg  
*Economic Research Service*

## Watch the Weights

This year promises to be one for the weight watchers—livestock producers who feed to proper but not heavy weights.

Although large feed supplies are strong enticement to excess, costs and other effects of marketing heavyweight livestock should be considered.

Among the benefits producers stand to gain by marketing at lighter weights are:

- A reduction in feeding costs,
- A better rate of return on livestock,
- Better alignment between red meat supplies and demand, and
- Strengthened prices throughout the livestock industry.

Even without feeding to heavy weights, red meat supplies this year will be large, as they were in 1967. Although lamb and veal production likely will be down somewhat, fed beef output likely will be about the same as last year's record, while hog output may be slightly larger than the 1967 level.





**Based on Information Available February 1, 1968**

### **SOYBEANS TO EUROPE**

Increasing European capability in soybean processing is expected to lead to larger soybean imports through September. So far in the 1967/68 marketing year ending September 1, bigger exports of U.S. soybeans to Europe have been offsetting smaller shipments to Japan, Canada, and Israel. Soybean exports for the year may total 15-20 million bushels above last year's record level.

### **LITTLE MORE LARD**

The current rate of domestic lard use is more in line with production than it was in the last marketing year. Margarine and shortening makers are using more lard for processing purposes, and domestic use this marketing year is forecast at 1.9 billion pounds, up one-tenth of a billion from the previous 12-month period. Meanwhile, little increase is in sight for lard production, which was 2.1 billion pounds in 1966/67.

### **CITRUS SEASON SQUEEZED**

A January estimate by the Statistical Reporting Service placed the 1967/68 citrus crop 30 percent below the record output of last season. Florida lime and tangelo crops are the only citrus fruits which avoided the general reductions.

Weather conditions, which curtailed citrus output everywhere but in Arizona, also hastened maturity in Texas and Florida. A larger portion of the harvest and orange juice pack was thus completed by January 1 than a year ago. Nevertheless, fresh and processing citrus fruit prices are expected to continue sharply above a year earlier through March.

## **FEWER VEGETABLES THIS WINTER**

Production of fresh vegetables this winter is expected to be substantially below the record tonnage of last year and slightly below the 1966 level. However, carrots, onions, and tomatoes are the only leading items likely to be in light supply. Prospective supplies of snap beans, cabbage, and lettuce are about the same as the 1962-66 average. Supplies of sweet corn, peppers, and celery will be well above average.

Harvests in winter-crop areas will be seasonally active during February and March. Marketings of most items are expected to be well above January's low levels, but below those of a year earlier. Prices for most vegetables likely will average substantially higher than the low to moderate prices of last winter.

## **MORE PROCESSED GOODS NOW**

Total supplies of both canned and frozen vegetables are materially larger than a year earlier. Stocks of all major canned vegetables are up from last year. Stocks of snap beans, peas, kraut, peeled tomatoes, catsup, and pickles are especially large. Among the leading frozen vegetables, stocks of snap beans, sweet corn, peas, and spinach appear to be in particularly heavy supply. With processed vegetable supplies generally ample to heavy, prices are expected to be under increasing pressure in coming months.

## **POTATOES UP TO THREE**

Potato supplies are heavy relative to trade needs. The 1967 fall crop was record large, and disappearance has been below a year earlier. Markets are under considerable pressure, with prices sharply below earlier levels. Intentions reports indicate sizable reductions from 1967 in plantings of both early and late spring crops. Average yields on the planned acreages would result in a larger early-spring production than in 1967, but late-spring output would be materially smaller.

Supplies of sweetpotatoes for marketing through the winter and spring appear to be about the same as last year's light supplies. Prices are slightly above a year earlier. They are expected to rise seasonally in coming months, and probably will average close to the record highs of last season.

## **FEWER BEANS; PRICES RIGHT NICE**

Due to reduced production, supplies of dry edible beans are much smaller than last season, and are tight relative to market needs. Domestic use is expected to be down moderately, and exports will be considerably below a year earlier. Prices to growers for 1967-crop beans are the highest in many years.

# Did You Ever Drop an Egg on Purpose?

## DONE DELIBERATELY TO ONE EGG IN 10, EGG-BREAKING IS AN INDUSTRY

The eggshell has been called the perfect package, but it's breakable. Undaunted, the egg industry has turned the liability of cracked eggs into a profitable liquid egg enterprise. Egg breaking is now big business in its own right.

Eggs in liquid form have found ready markets. Liquid egg is a convenience for commercial bakers and many food processors who buy the product whole or in part—such as yolk or white only. Liquid egg is often marketed combined with salt, sugar, or other additives. Also, it is sold in dried and frozen forms.

Egg breaking, the accidental kind, used to spell only trouble for producers. They would salvage what they could by selling still-fresh "cracks" cheaper than whole shell eggs. Then bakers and food processors saw the moneysaving wisdom of buying eggs in liquid or dried form.

## From 15 Plants . . .

Store-bought baked goods and processed foods were firmly established by the mid-1930's. To supply these markets, some 15 egg-drying plants across the country in 1936 were processing dried egg products from liquid egg.

Then came the tremendous military demand in World War II. By 1944 the quantity of liquid eggs used for making dried eggs, alone, had increased a thousandfold over its prewar level—to 1.7 billion pounds. On the average during the war years liquid egg accounted for 17 percent of total egg production. It peaked at 25 percent in 1944.

Following the war, the percentage of total egg output used for liquid egg dipped by nearly two-thirds, but then held fairly steady for a few years. In 1947-50 it averaged 10.5 percent with purchases bolstered by USDA price-support programs.

Then, however, national output of liquid eggs declined. By 1952, the liquid portion of the egg market had dropped to a point where it was in line with commercial need, accounting for a 6.1-percent share of the total market.

Production strengthened again when mechanization was introduced. In the early 1950's machines began to replace hand labor for breaking and separating eggs. Largely because of resulting savings, output of liquid egg increased. By 1958 the liquid egg share of total U.S. egg production had recovered to 7.1 percent.

And for the period 1958-61, Government purchases, sparked by school lunch program needs, helped boost egg-breaking activity to a 9.5-percent share of egg output.

## . . . To 250

Reflecting these fluctuations in demand, the number of U.S. egg-breaking facilities generally increased to a high of 477 in 1949. After a sharp postwar drop, there was a recovery in numbers to 248 in 1961.

Improved transportation has given a boost to the marketing of liquid egg. Since the 1950's, egg-breaking firms have used trucks equipped with insulated tanks, allowing processors to supply liquid egg products directly to distant food manufacturers as well as to local buyers. And recently, fresh liquid egg, itself, has been replacing much of the market for frozen egg.

A further boon to liquid egg sales has come from advanced technology which, among other things, has helped extend the shelf life of the products.

Recent output of liquid egg has been unusually large, following the increase in shell egg production during the past year. U.S. production of egg solids (dried egg in all forms) taken from liquid egg totaled 66.5 million pounds in January-November, 1967. This was 42 percent above the year-earlier period.

Prices and demand for convenience foods containing egg, plus innovations in marketing, will combine to determine future trends in liquid egg output. For now, the trend is upward.



**WHITE BREAD.** That loaf of white bread we buy today isn't the same product that was available 20 years ago.

Consumer preferences have changed and so have the baker's costs.

Here are some examples:

Nearly all of today's white bread is sliced at the bakery. This takes more of the baker's time.

Richer formula, higher priced breads have found increasing favor with consumers as incomes have increased.

Most of us want bread to stay soft and fresh until the whole loaf is used. So we have a resealable plastic film bag for packaging—and this costs the baker about a penny more per loaf than the wax wrapper of yesterday.

**IMITATION MILK.** Retail sales of filled, or 'imitation, milk have so far been mainly in Arizona, California, Washington, and Oregon. Current press reports indicate that similar-type products are being sold in Midwestern and Eastern States, as well as in Florida.

However, as sales volume so far has been relatively small, it's too early for judgments on consumer acceptance or potential impact on sales of fresh milk.

Coconut oil—a vegetable fat—is substituted for butterfat in the imitation fluid milk products now being marketed.

Generally, the products combine coconut oil, fluid skim milk (or nonfat dry milk) and an imitation milk base mix. This mix contains the emulsifiers and stabilizers, and in addition may contain

corn syrup solids or soy protein.

Processors can use the same equipment to make imitation fluid milk that they use in processing fresh whole milk.

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## FARM FOOD NOTES

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Distribution, refrigeration, storage requirements, and keeping qualities are comparable with those of fresh fluid milk.

Retail prices of the imitation product could be significantly lower than those for fresh fluid milk—especially if cost spreads between butterfat and vegetable oils continue to widen.

State regulatory laws, however, will be a factor in future sales.

For one thing, the fat content of imitation milk may be less than the minimum standards for fluid whole milk.

California requires a minimum of 3 percent vegetable fat in the imitation products, but 3.5 percent butterfat in whole milk.

Arizona has the same butterfat minimum for whole milk, but does not set fat standards for imitation milk.

In many States, existing laws do not permit the marketing of the imitation product.

For the 74 Federal order milk markets a national hearing to consider changes or additions to regulations affecting filled milk was scheduled by USDA to be held February 19 in Memphis, Tenn.

**HEADS UP.** What's red, green, purple, or white—with a head that's either flat, pointed, or round?

Cabbage, of course.

Cabbage patches cover 125,000 acres in 35 States that yield over 2.3 billion pounds each year.

Per capita consumption of cabbage runs about 12 pounds annually, including about 2 pounds of sauerkraut.

Last year's cabbage crop made some gains over the rather small harvest in 1966—and the crop grown for kraut alone was expected to be up 45 percent.

Today's housewife will usually find five varieties to choose from.

*Red* cabbage is at its peak during the fall, although it is available most of the year.

*Danish* is solid headed and keeps well. Heads are usually round or oval, sometimes a bit flat.

*Savoy* is yellowish green and has a loosely formed head of crinkly cabbage.

*Domestic* cabbage can have either a flat or round head and is familiar to everyone.

*Pointed* cabbage is a specialty sold in early spring as green cabbage.

**ANGORA ANGLES.**

When it comes to furnishing the finest fibers for mohair fabrics, ordinary billy goats won't do.

It takes an angora goat.

U.S. mohair production has exceeded sales for consumption at home and for export since 1964, and prices to growers have trended downward.

But this year, things might be better. U.S. mill consumption is expected to average somewhat higher than in 1967 and exports may increase slightly due to reduced foreign production.



# FERTILIZERS TAILORED TO FIT: HOW FARMERS USED THEM IN 1967

It was time to work up fertilizer application rates for your crops. Where did you get the facts to help decide your best rates?

You had the recommendations of experts like the county agent and fertilizer dealers. But probably, you relied as well on neighbors.

For 6 years, the Statistical Reporting Service has been doing it your way—on a national scale, by having fact col-

lectors ask producers their current fertilizer practices.

What exactly do the figures mean? They were derived from a small but scientifically selected sample of fields in each State. Thus, the rates and practices shown are averages of 100-300 fields in a State. As such, they are not averages or official estimates for the entire State. Also, they do not constitute recommendations by SRS or USDA.

State	Surveyed acres receiving— (Percent)			Rate per acre receiving— (Pounds)			Time of application (Percent)		
	N	P	K	N <sup>1</sup>	P <sup>1</sup>	K <sup>1</sup>	At or before seeding	After seeding	Before and after
CORN									
Iowa.....	88	84	78	89.5	24.7	37.3	66	2	32
Illinois.....	93	90	89	108.6	29.1	58.1	59	0	41
Indiana.....	99	99	99	112.2	34.2	75.5	43	1	56
Minnesota...	92	90	88	68.6	24.0	37.7	73	1	26
Nebraska...	90	70	40	120.6	15.8	15.0	49	12	39
Ohio.....	100	100	99	88.1	30.8	58.0	64	0	36
WHEAT									
Kansas.....	51	41	5	36.0	16.0	11.9	60	5	35
N. Dakota...	48	66	5	9.8	9.9	8.1	100	0	0
Oklahoma...	52	46	19	33.0	12.9	11.0	62	5	33
Montana...	28	41	0	5.9	7.7	0.0	99	0	1
Texas.....	50	25	2	84.3	21.3	13.5	74	0	26
Nebraska...	39	18	2	26.6	16.8	22.4	68	21	11
COTTON									
Texas.....	47	39	12	55.0	18.9	16.4	81	6	13
Mississippi..	97	58	58	97.5	24.4	47.0	58	6	36
Arkansas...	98	79	79	67.9	18.0	38.9	82	5	13
California...	90	42	6	145.0	43.1	61.1	33	36	31
Oklahoma...	51	45	41	18.6	9.8	10.9	89	11	0
Alabama....	100	100	100	77.6	31.0	60.8	24	0	76
SOYBEANS									
Illinois.....	9	13	17	16.7	22.4	54.6	100	0	0
Iowa.....	11	15	14	12.4	12.8	20.1	100	0	0
Arkansas....	8	23	22	24.2	17.8	34.8	92	8	0
Minnesota...	10	14	14	5.6	10.4	22.5	100	0	0
Missouri....	20	20	20	16.3	13.5	27.4	100	0	0
Indiana.....	46	55	56	7.1	11.0	27.9	100	0	0

<sup>1</sup> Pounds of actual elements applied.

# BANANAS COME CLEAN—ALONG WITH OTHER PRODUCE IMPORTS

Bananas—3.7 billion pounds of them—accounted for three-fourths of the volume of fruits and vegetables imported under quarantine regulation during fiscal year 1967.

Like bananas, most fresh fruit and vegetable imports are checked by plant quarantine inspectors of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The inspectors protect American agriculture by keeping out dangerous insects and plant diseases either foreign to or not widely distributed in the United States.

Some commodities must be treated before entry regardless of the presence of insects and diseases. The inspectors supervise treatment. In other cases, only inspection is mandatory, and no treatment is necessary unless contamination is discovered. Only imports of Canadian origin are exempt from quarantine inspection.

Most fruit and vegetable imports consist of products not grown domestically. Others are mainly those the United States does not grow enough of to supply the demand or are shipments made to compensate for winter declines in domestic output.

Here's a breakdown of the fruits and vegetables that USDA inspectors checked during fiscal 1967:

**Fruits.** U.S. inspectors checked more than 4 billion pounds of imported fruits, ranging in quantities from the 3.7 billion pounds of bananas to 25 pounds of lingonberries from Sweden. The main banana suppliers were Ecuador, over 1 billion pounds; Honduras, nearly 1 billion pounds; Panama, over 820 million.

Almost 280 million pounds of assorted melons were inspected. About half were cantaloups, and most of the rest were watermelons. Mexico and Dominican Republic accounted for over 245 million pounds of both types.

Strawberry inspections fell from 107 million pounds in the previous year to 99 million. Mexico was the chief supplier.

Mexico was also the chief source of fresh orange and pineapple imports.

**Vegetables.** Nearly 750 million pounds of vegetables were reported by inspectors to have entered via quarantine channels during fiscal 1967. Around 60 percent of the volume consisted of fresh tomatoes imported from Mexico, which was also the principal supplier of 24 other vegetables.

**Nuts.** Of a total of about 130 million pounds of nuts imported in fiscal 1967, nearly 13 million pounds were imported under quarantine. Most of this quantity was chestnuts, which accounted for nearly 12 million pounds. Italy supplied nearly the entire amount.

## HAYSEEDS FLOURISH IN THE FAR WEST

Most farmers are buying alfalfa seeds from companies these days, rather than from their neighbors, to get the better varieties and vigorous strains being grown extensively in the West.

Until the late 1940's, alfalfa seed was mainly produced in the central United States, where it is produced from acreage grown primarily for forage. But, commercial production is now mainly in the West and Northwest.

The main reasons for this change are better soil conditions and better growing weather for seed production. The insects are also important. Alfalfa seed production requires the presence of an adequate bee population, but is adversely affected by seed-destroying insects.

The 1967 alfalfa seed crop followed recent trends: Greater per-acre yields from less land. Acreage devoted to seed output in mid-America continued to shrink, and western yields continued to climb. Excellent weather contributed to unusually good western seed crops last year.

Oregon and Washington led in yields with 620 and 590 pounds per acre. California, Idaho, and Nevada averaged around 450 pounds per acre. All these yields were way above the national average of 241 pounds per acre. California was the largest producer, growing about 40 percent of the total 1967 crop.

The 1967 alfalfa seed crop is estimated at about 115 million pounds, down 3 percent from a year earlier and 14 percent below average.

*Statistical Reporting Service*

# When SRS Asks Farmers for the Facts . . . THAT'S ONLY PART OF THE TASK

A while back, enumerators of the Statistical Reporting Service had many farmers consulting record books and suppliers to determine exactly what brands and concentrations of pesticides they were using.

The answers the enumerators got were the basis of a recent report published by the Economic Research Service on pesticides used by farmers in 1964.

But such reports involve more than the asking of questions. Groundwork for this survey began when ERS specified the information needed from farmers on a questionnaire. Pesticides were broken down into four classes: Fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, and miscellaneous pesticides such as fumigants and defoliants. For each class, the economists had questions about quantities used per acre and use on specific crops.

The questionnaire then went to SRS, and was designed for ease of interviewing. Wordings were sometimes changed to help the enumerator in getting the proper response. And, of course, all questions had to be designed in such a way that their answers could be fed into a computer. After pretesting and subsequent changes, the survey was nearly ready to roll.

SRS survey designers began choosing the farmers to be queried. They started with a map of the United States divided up into many numbered areas. Each area was about a square mile.

Then numbers were selected by using recognized statistical procedures. All farmers who lived within the areas corresponding to these selected numbers were interviewed in the survey.

During the pesticide survey, 10,800 farmers in 417 counties scattered throughout all the States except Alaska and Hawaii were questioned. Farmers sometimes had difficulty providing information on the concentrations of pesticides they used. Many times a trip to the record book or telephone was necessary to find out from the dealer exactly what concentration was used.

The enumerators recorded the answers to all the questions while interviewing the farmers, then the question-

naires went to SRS State offices where they were checked for accuracy. If something looked wrong, the form was sent back to the enumerator for explanation or correction. After all corrections were made, the forms were sent on to SRS in Washington, D.C., where they were again checked for accuracy.

The information was then transferred to punchcards, and fed into a computer. The computer edited, summarized, and projected the survey data to national estimates.

## ANSWERS YOU GAVE

Here's what the pesticide report showed:

—Farmers nearly tripled their pesticide purchases from 1954 to 1964.

—Farmers used slightly over 40 percent of the pesticides produced in the United States in 1964.

—About 93 percent, by weight, was used on crops and 3 percent on livestock. The other 4 percent was used for miscellaneous things such as controlling weeds along roadsides or killing bugs and rats around the farmstead.

—Commercial farmers used an average of 70 pounds of insecticides in 1964.

—Insecticides are the major pesticide products bought by farmers. Use has increased about 5 percent a year in recent years.

—Herbicides are now nearly as important as insecticides. Their use has gone up about 10 percent annually in recent years.



*Use Pesticides Safely*  
**FOLLOW THE LABEL**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



# PESTICIDE INDUSTRY RESPONDS TO FARMING'S NEW REQUIREMENTS

## Fifth in a Series on Input Suppliers

Behind today's needs for chemical pesticides are the modern methods of farming which provide an environment ideally suited to weeds, insects, and crop diseases.

Despite new tillage practices and the development of such things as insect and disease resistant crop varieties, nonchemical controls have not provided adequate alternatives. Thus, the use of chemical pesticides has continued to grow.

Value of pesticides formulated in all 1,600 plants in the 48 States in 1964 amounted to \$700 million. Sales averaged more than \$400,000 per plant. Retail sales possibly exceeded \$1 billion in 1964.

Although insecticides have made up the lion's share of chemical pesticides produced, in dollar value, herbicides have made rapid inroads. While the insecticide share fell from 67 percent to 53 percent of total U.S. shipments of pesticides between 1954 and 1964, the share of herbicides increased from 17 to 22 percent of shipments. At the same time, the share of fungicides dropped from 14 to 10 percent. But the others—soil fumigants and conditioners, animal dips, and lesser unclassified pesticides—more than doubled their share, rising to 15 percent of the total.

## WOE TO WEEDS

Back in the early 1940's, the use of herbicides was just getting started. The introduction of 2,4-D, although aimed at eliminating only broad-leaved plants, was the first large-scale effort to control weeds by other than mechanical tillage. Herbicidal related pesticides are slated for equally important roles in the next decade because of their use also as growth regulators, desiccants, or defoliants for mechanical harvesting.

Fungicides are the third most important group of pesticides, following the insect and weed killers. Although their relative importance has declined in the past 20 years, the quantity used has more than doubled. By 1964, fungicides

accounted for one-tenth of the value of chemical pesticides used on farms.

## TRIPLE THREAT

Most popular forms in which pesticides are used are dusts, wettable powders, and emulsions.

Effectiveness of the dusts varies with particle size: The smaller the particle of active agent, the more effective. The quantity of dry carrier (such as talc or clay) in the formula may be several times the amount of chemical. But some mixtures may be composed only of pesticides.

Wettable powders generally contain a higher concentration of chemical because they are intended for dilution with a moistener, usually water.

Emulsions—fine particles of a liquid suspended in another liquid—are usually combined with water and oil. They are fast becoming the most popular form of pesticide because they are easiest to work with.

Although farm uses are the most important outlets for pesticides, they are not the entire story. Only about 40 percent of pesticides sold are for the farm. Another 40 percent is bought by other domestic outlets, and some 20 percent is shipped abroad.

## RECORD 1967 RICE CROP: LARGE EXPORTS LIKELY

U.S. rice production in 1967 set a record high of 89.6 million hundredweight. This brought the total supply for the marketing year of August 1967–July 1968 to 98 million hundredweight of rough rice.

About 33 million hundredweight of this likely will be used in the United States for food, seed and by brewers.

An estimated 65 million hundredweight will, thus, be available for export and carryover. Exports this marketing year are expected to exceed the previous season's record of 52 million hundredweight, reflecting heavy requirements by commercial rice buyers and food-aid recipients.

*Economic Research Service*





# SAM STAT SAYS

## "Check My Data"

### A brief roundup

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■ January prices paid by fluid milk dealers in 176 markets averaged 18 cents per hundredweight above a year earlier. Regional prices averaged from 5 cents below the previous January in New England to 32 cents higher in the West North Central States.

■ A January forecast by SRS placed California's fall-winter avocado crop 66 percent below last year's 53,000 tons. ■ December output of the laying flock was 5.9 million eggs, up 4 percent from the previous month. ■ Take stock of the new year. On January 1 there were: . . . A total of 2.9 million sheep and lambs on feed in 26 States, 9 percent fewer than a year earlier. . . . An estimated 11.5 million cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in 39 States, up 2 percent from a year ago. . . . Nearly 350 million bushels of soybean stocks on farms, 2 percent more than January 1967 stocks.

### 3 MILLION FARMS

The trends of the past decade toward fewer and larger farms continued during the past year.

Since 1959, the number of U.S. farms has declined one-fourth, while land in farms has decreased much more slowly—at 5 percent. These changes relate to the increasing average size of farms, from 288 acres in 1959 to a high of 369 acres expected this year—a 28-percent gain.

This year, preliminary estimates put the number of operating U.S. farms at 3,059,000 compared with 3,146,000 in 1967.

Behind the changes in farm numbers, both recent

and long-range, have been the dwindling of smaller farms and the merging of larger units.

Total land in farms in most States has decreased, but there have been exceptions.

In several States new land introduced or diverted for soybean cultivation has helped to maintain the level of land in farms. The reason for the trend toward soybean cultivation is twofold—increased demand for the product and its relative ease in growing. Rice and cotton, for example, need more direct labor.

Thus, total land in Louisiana farms increased because of new land de-

voted to soybeans. Arkansas has held its own, with much of its cotton land switched to the production of soybeans.

The decline in farm numbers has been reflected in the totals of many States, from the smallest to one of the biggest.

For the first time in recent history, Texas, which has the most farms, is expected to dip below the 200,000 mark in numbers of farms operating. At the same time, Rhode Island with the fewest farms of the 48 States hit a low of 1,000. The fewest of all 50 States, of course, are in Alaska, with only about 310 this year.

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